

# CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

## *General Strategies*

- ★ Establish rules **early** and enforce them **consistently**
  - Ensure that all students are held to the same standard.
  
- ★ Refer back to the **peace contract**. Make a point to bring it with you to each programming date and display it.
  - When creating the peace contract, let students have all the say, therefore they gain a sense of responsibility and can be held accountable.
  
- ★ Use **positive language** with your students
  - *“Please listen to your classmates” vs “Stop Talking”*
  
- ★ **Ask students to “check themselves”** instead of telling them what to do. This shows you trust their judgement and grows their capability and self regulation
  - *“Check yourself to see if you are using your inside voice”*
  
- ★ Ensure that students remain **occupied**.
  
- ★ **Model positive behaviors** with your co-volunteers and students
  
- ★ Be **organized and prepared**.
  - *Kids notice right away if you are not prepared, it also gives the impression that you don't care enough to prepare something for them*
  
- ★ Have **peacemakers of the week**
  - Make a cute certificate, it can be handmade or printed
  
- ★ **Reward good behavior**
  - If you have rowdy kids and nothing else has worked, try this technique:
  - give them a certain amount of time to be good for that is developmentally appropriate (IE ten minutes for first graders).
  - Let them know they will get a small reward at the end of the time.
  - If they mess up, just start the time over again so that eventually they get a reward, and then repertoire is built between you and the group.
  
- ★ Setting up activities

- Have one volunteer play a transition game, or game that is easy to end like Simon Says to avoid idle time
- Have the other volunteers setting up the next activity

### *Transition Strategies*

- ★ Ensure children are aware a transition will be happening - give a 5 minute warning
- ★ Play a transition game like Red Elbow or Magic Scrap
- ★ Allow the children to “choose” when to transition. Give two options, both of which you like - IE should we transition in “3 or 7 minutes?”
- ★ Set a timer! This way, you are not the bad guy, the timer is.

### *Common Behavior Problem Strategies*

- ★ **Clingy Kid?**
  - Don't lean down to them and get on their level, maintain a distance and establish your authority.
  - Ignore their behavior unless it is an emergency
  - Reward appropriate behavior, such as raising their hand and interacting with their peers
- ★ **Maintain proximity** to students' behavior you want to improve.
  - A student is less likely to act up if someone is standing by them
  - Potentially have one volunteer act as a one on one, who the student has shown an affinity for
- ★ Kids talking over each other
  - Talking stick
  - Have a discussion about respect. Acknowledge that everyone has great thoughts and you can't wait to hear them, but we all have to take our turn in order to be heard.

### *Attention Getters*

- ★ Loudly make an observation and let the students chime in

- *WOW! It has been snowing for the past 3 days. Has anyone played in the snow?*
- ★ Wait at the front silently for everyone to get quiet
- ★ If you hear my voice clap once, if you hear my voice clap twice, if you hear my voice \*insert silly command\*
- ★ Quiet Coyote symbol